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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

The Security Situation in Uruguay

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
23 March 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Security Situation in Uruguay
(Situation Report Number 17)

1. The Communist Party of Uruguay is hoping to extend its anti-Summit activities to Punta del Este and also to Maldonado, the largest city nearby. The major effort in those cities would probably coincide with the presidents' arrival, or around 11 April. A demonstration is planned for 11 April in Maldonado's principal square and a 24-hour general strike in the city is also being considered. The Communists are considering a number of odd schemes. For example, they are talking of floating balloons over the San Rafael Hotel (where the Summit meeting will take place). The balloons would carry flags, leaflets and Molotov cocktails, which the party hopes will fall on the trees surrounding the hotel, causing a fire and creating a major commotion. The Communists hope to put the blame for this stunt, which would seem to have little chance of success, on one of Uruguay's more militant leftist organizations. The party, however, is taking steps to avoid a personal attack upon any visiting president. To prevent an "incident," it has decreed that none of its members be permitted to carry weapons.

2. Elsewhere, the Havana-based Organization of Latin American Students' Congress has sent telegrams to student organizations in ten Latin American countries calling for an area-wide student strike between 12 and 14 April.

3. The Uruguayan Government has warned leading Communists about a section of the penal code which provides for jail sentences for anyone "insulting the honor of a foreign head of state."

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The police are hesitant to arrest anyone under this law because it has never been enforced. Uruguayan judges, however, have suggested that if the police provide them with the names of propagandists, the courts will decide whether an offense had been committed, thus relieving the hard-pressed police of this responsibility. The police are taking the names of propagandists. The judges also suggested that anyone without proper identity documents could be arrested now and held for a later hearing. The government's warnings probably will have little effect on the Communists' plans.

4. The police are now organizing an intelligence section for summit conference security coverage. Their plan calls for five sub-units: information collection, security, travel control, transportation/supply, and an information center. The section is badly understaffed and a request for 35 additional officers and men has been pending since 13 March. Nevertheless, the police have begun to check the names of travelers arriving in Montevideo against a preliminary watch list. In Punta del Este, the police are establishing an efficient command center and observation posts. However, the substation which is responsible for the security of a large area surrounding the San Rafael Hotel is poorly equipped and as yet has no firearms. The Uruguayan President is concerned over the progress of security preparations and is following them closely.

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